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## HOW THE HALF-AND-HALF PLAN WORKS

In 1878 when the half-and-half plan went into effect the salaries of employees of the District were cut down about 20 per cent. Before that the salaries had been on a par with that paid for work of a similar character by private employers in this city. Since the cut was made the salary scale among these private employers has risen steadily. The District clerks' pay has remained the same.

For the present fiscal year the revenues of the District exceed the District's half of the \$14,000,000 appropriated by Congress by about \$1,000,000. In other words, the Government pays \$7,000,000 toward the year's expenditure, and the District can only use \$7,000,000 of its own revenue, since the half-and-half principle is still operative. There is nearly a million more of the District surplus of a previous year in the Treasury, rightfully belonging to the District, but credited to the Federal Government.

Only \$303,332.67 of these two million dollars would be needed to defray the cost of increasing the salaries of the city's employees on the scale they have asked. The need of these city employees is no greater than that of the Government clerks. But their right to an increase is even clearer because of this excess of District revenues which cannot, under the hypothetical half-and-half plan, be used.

## THE HEROISM OF 1916

Strange, these qualities of heroism and love of adventure, which survive among all the complexities of modern civilization. Some folk constantly prate about their passing. But modern inventions seem to give opportunities for exercising them, instead of stifling them.

Over in Jersey, amid the racket of exploding shells, Miss Tessie McNamara stands by her job and calls up big buildings to warn them of the impending danger. Every now and then some humble wireless operator on board a vessel in distress stands by to the last moment to dispatch the crackling S. O. S. call for help.

It is not as exciting as Paul Revere's ride, or as spectacular as the story of the youth who sat up all night with his finger plugged in the leak of that Holland dyke (a tale which has been questioned). Even our heroic deeds of 1916 are done pretty much in matter of fact fashion. Miss McNamara did not faint after it was all over to emphasize her daring. She went out to see the spectacle.

Life has all the thrills it ever had, we venture to set forth, for those that find them. Prosy-minded folk are still with us to whom "a primrose by the river's brim" is a yellow primrose, nothing more. Our poets have not succeeded in putting much of our modern romance into verse, even into vers libre, but the poets, if they but knew it, usually are a few generations behind the everyday man in getting the zest out of life.

## PORK, PORT, AND CITIZEN

The more details printed regarding the rivers and harbors pork barrel the less comprehensible it seems that support can be secured in the House and Senate for such a shameless measure. According to an analysis of the total amount proposed for immediate expenditure in this bill \$18,000,000 is included for eight projects representing a combined actual commerce less than 5 per cent of the tonnage of the port of New York, which will receive only \$700,000 approximately, if the bill goes through in its present form.

The eight favored projects, with their allotments, are: Norfolk and Beaufort waterway, \$1,000,000; lower Missouri, \$1,000,000; upper Mississippi, \$1,200,000; central Mississippi, \$850,000; Mississippi passes, \$2,000,000; Ohio river canalization, \$5,000,000; lower Mississippi, \$6,000,000; and Cumberland river, \$637,000.

It is not in the nature of things that these enterprises, taken altogether, will be even in the future as vital to the country's welfare as the port of New York, which handles more than one-fourth of our commercial tonnage. Yet New York—the world port—is to receive less than one-twenty-fifth as much as these wasteful enterprises, toward the cost of which it must at the same time contribute, through an inequitable system of taxation, an unjustly large share. If the allotments were the other way around badly needed appropriations would be spent where they are needed and a port develop-

ment assured which, with reasonable tariff and shipping laws, should keep the country first commercially among the powers.

## A TYPICAL VIEWPOINT ON PAY OF CLERKS

Congressman Rainey of Illinois has been friendly to Washington and its interests. He is not one of the men who seek glory at home by priming his guns at Federal employes in Washington. For this reason his letter to Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary of the National Association of Postoffice clerks, giving his reasons for not supporting a general increase in the pay of Government clerks is significant. It probably represents the views of many members who are not inimical to the clerks, but who, through lack of information, decline to support a pay increase for them.

He points to the fact that Government clerks are secure in their positions for life. This is a favorite argument of those who believe that this security should be offset by low pay. Many of the most efficient clerks, an examination of the records will show, step out from the Government service with little thought of this security of tenure, when they find they can get better pay elsewhere. Those who stick are those who were brought in at a low rate of pay, who learn the routine of their work, and find that the sort of work they do for the Government fits them for better pay nowhere, in the Government service or out of it.

Mr. Rainey suggests that the clerks attempt to show they are getting less money for the same sort of work in the Government service than they could get elsewhere. That fact has been shown in many cases; especially is it true in any of the dozen or more scientific bureaus of the departments. Other factors than a mere comparison of wages of private and Federal employment should enter into the consideration. The cost of living in Washington is one factor. The question of atonement for lack of opportunity for promotion is another.

"No special training is required for any work in the Postoffice Department," I can think of, except the postal clerks on our railway trains," continues Mr. Rainey. That is a sweeping statement; and an examination of the highly diversified work of that department would not bear it out. Certainly it would not stand in the cases of other departments, notably the Agriculture, Interior, State, War and Navy Departments.

Mr. Rainey thinks the demands for increases are badly timed. These same demands have been made in years past and the same excuses have always been given. The demand this year seems peculiarly well timed, because private employers everywhere have seen fit to raise their employees' pay. Added demands on the Treasury for national defense must be met, and the country is willing to meet them by taxation, but it is not expecting the Government clerks, or any other particular class of workers, to make special and extraordinary sacrifices for it.

Mr. Rainey contends that Congress is answerable to the public at large for any increased expenditure for Government work. It also is answerable to the public for the efficiency of Government work. The whole question of Government workers' pay resolves itself to that. The clerks have a right to demand a pay scale commensurate with the demand made upon them for efficient performance of their duties. Around the country, if Congressmen trouble to ascertain this fact, is a widespread belief that the work of Government departments is highly disorganized and highly inefficient. The clerks believe, and other persons close to headquarters here in Washington believe, that much of this inefficiency can be traced to the employment of cheap labor.

Congressmen keep calling for more and more information about comparative wage scales in the Government and in private employ. Clerks have spent their own time and money to get as much of this information as they can. But when Congress really wants the information as a basis for taking up the civil service payroll issue, it will go about getting it, just as it gets other information it desires. During the hearings on the Nolan bill it obtained much light on the subject, yet it has taken no special steps to use it.

## UNION LABEL BASEBALL

Those baseball players who are members of the so-called Players' Fraternity have shown the courage of their convictions; they believe that they are laboring men entitled to the protection of labor unions, and therefore they have applied for a charter for their union to the American Federation of Labor. Samuel Gompers, who ought to know, has said that his federation will probably hold a special meeting of its executive committee on Saturday for the purpose of granting the desired charter.

Mr. Gompers quite approves of the idea; will be delighted to spread the federation's well-known axis over the down-trodden workers of the diamond. They have threatened a strike; no doubt all the bricklayers

and cloakmakers and bridge builders in the United States would hold it equally duty and privilege to throw down their trowels, needles, and wrenches when the Players' Union demonstrates its manhood by "walking out" and demanding the sympathetic co-operation of other federated toilers.

However other labor unions, as such, may regard the matter, there isn't much doubt as to what the general public will think. The hundreds of thousands of sport-loving people who crowd to see good baseball, well played, have taken for granted that the players had developed a little sporting spirit even if they had none to begin with. This public has imagined that the big salaries and the good teamwork were part of some genuine interest in sport. Mr. Gompers and his disciples have prepared an unpleasant surprise for such thoughtless folk. Mr. Gompers, Mr. Fultz, and his cohorts can tell them a trick worth two of that. No baseball without the union label. Why should one player get more pay than another?

## ADMIRAL DEWEY

When the late O. Henry whimsically referred to the late war between Spain and Admiral George Dewey he sized up one of the most brilliant exploits in history better than the historians themselves have done it. In the days of mourning for the passing of Admiral Dewey his naval victory at Manila Bay without the loss of a man will stand out in bright relief.

There are some traits of Admiral Dewey's character worth studying that the usual run of biographies may not emphasize. Though he attained a rank held by two other men only in this country's history, Admiral Dewey, unlike lesser national heroes, was a modest man who conceived he had limitations. In 1900 his admirers enthusiastically proposed him for the Presidency. It took rare courage, one imagines, for him to decline to listen to the whisperings of ambition.

Admiral Dewey, strong, rugged, a trained fighter, was a man of unusual tact. He may have performed one of his greatest services when he adjusted a difference of opinion about international law "without adding to the sum of President McKinley's worries," by firing a shot across the bow of a German vessel in Manila Bay to impress the German fleet with the fact that the American navy had established a genuine blockade.

Admiral Dewey was a good sailor—naval equivalent to the more common expression, "a good soldier"—when it came to taking orders. It is interesting to recall that he considered the orders which sent him to the Far East, back in '98, as an affront, and an effort to shelve him, yet he obeyed them without protest, and in doing so found the unsuspected opportunity to rank among America's national heroes in the Philippines.

The nation will mourn the passing of a great military figure; many folk in Washington will have a personal sorrow in the death of a friend, and neighbor, and a big-hearted man.

The best thing about the Webb-Kenyon law is the crimp it puts in the fellow who believes in prohibition for other folk and knows just where to get his own supply.

Holland has just had a taste of Belgium's experience with German projectiles. Holland had the assurance of Germany that Belgium refugees who had fled to the Netherlands would not be molested if they returned to Belgium. They returned, and then the deportations began.

From the far West comes the suggestion, passed along to the managers of the Washington poultry show, that whatever the gate receipts, the egg-gathering privilege ought to make somebody's fortune.

The Boston Globe suggests that a \$60,000,000 leak ought to attract attention, even from a plumber. Yes, but he wouldn't go looking for it with a lighted match.

"Santa in Flowerland" is the title of an amateur playlet to be given here. He generally comes in a sleigh in snow time, but then, perhaps, he is going to do his Christmas giving early.

There are times when talcum powder displays gunpowder proclivities. Powder on the mustache of a rival won a husband's alienation suit in Baltimore.

William Penn's last prayer for Philadelphia has just been hung up in bronze in the city hall. That must be the answer, nobody ever prayed for New York until Billy Sunday volunteered to do it.

Those who fear, with good grounds, that Federal censorship of motion pictures would bring politics into the realm of a favorite national recreation can find plenty of proof just now by reading the Philadelphia papers. The Pennsylvania State board of censors is in the throes of political resignations and suspensions of its employees.

An Innes painting has just sold for \$45,000. Goldberg had better be looking to his salary laurels.

"Shakespeare from the standpoint of a lawyer"—well, he did start the movement to open law school courses to women students.

## Don Marquis' Column

A contortionist fellow down South scorned the Prohibits and laughed at their drouth.  
For tickled and stung  
Like champagne on his tongue  
When his foot went to sleep in his mouth.

The speculation as to whether Adam ate an apple, an orange or a quince has been revived.

We have always thought ourself that the story symbolized the fall of humanity through the invention of the boarding house, and the fruit was likely a prune.

## Another Conspiracy Discovers

Sir: Since reading recently in Don Marquis' Column a criticism of the movies, referring particularly to the extraordinary number of bullets required to kill one movie character, I hasten to inform you that this matter is far more serious than it would appear at first glance. The mighty machinations of the German propagandists have surely been brought to bear upon many scenario writers, movie directors and others in the business with the sole purpose of diverting munitions from the allies.

Here are the figures: There are on an average 100 picture plays produced weekly in the United States. At least 85 per cent of these contain two "shoot-out scenes" requiring not less than four rehearsals each. Figure fifty-two weeks in a year and the war's duration to date, two years and a half. As basis we assume the conservative figure of only ten bullets for one "kill."

Thus we have: 85 per cent of 100 by 2 by 4 by 52 by 10, giving the ammunition diverted since the war began as 285,200 rounds of ammunition, not to include the immense quantities consumed in the larger feature plays.

Can we not start a back-to-the-knife movement? With munition plants exploding everywhere, the allies need all the ammunition they can get.

SORZANO.

## That Royal Romance

Said Louis Quince to Kansas Lou  
"If you adore O, w'atimez-vous?"  
Said Kansas Lou to Louis Quince:  
"Not much, I'll be some Kansas man's."

## GETTING ALL THE FAMILY TOGETHER

(From the Jackson (Ky.) Times.)  
Miss Lucy Holliday, of Somerset, and Miss Sara Holliday, of Hazard, have returned to their homes after spending the holidays with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Holliday.

## Vorticists at the Penguin

Shunning the vulgar, obvious Avenue of tailors sweetly strolling, cops exhorting,  
I found, in diagrams of ecstasy,  
The giddy, dervish Vorticists car-vorting.

Oh, wouldst thou paint the Plasm, the Il, the Ent,

The Quintessential Ju-Ju, or the Ion,  
The Why for spindly mouse—the Pen-guin seek;

There you'll get recipes you may rely on.

War's horror, now, you fitly represent  
By slabs of chewing gum in varied color;

For love, a dance, regret or break-fast, use  
Same dope, but keep the tints a trifle duller.

Suspenders on a bargain counter make  
For any festive scene a splendid model;

Tape, lunch checks, dominoes, work-wonders if  
You've got the proper vortex in your noddle.

Oh, but then, perhaps, your soul's not Vorticist;

Perhaps it's Rhomboid-decadrist—ask it!

If so—That noise? I guess it's nothing—ask it!

Just old Mike Angelo writhing in his casket!

MARK RUSSELL.

Because a man utters platitudes, that is no sign he is more sincere than the fellow who makes epigrams. But the maker of epigrams is less likely to be shoved into places of power and prestige by the public.

Diet cops sing after eating twelve cents' worth—Headline.  
A song of alpenace.

ALL RIGHT, RUCKERVILLE, COME ON IN!  
(From the Winchester (Ky.) Republican.)

The New York Evening Sun copied our Ruckerville correspondent's soliloquy on booze which appeared in the Republican week before last. It contained some original poetry that seemed to tickle the New York jays. Our Ruckerville poet could fill their columns with better stuff still if they would only recognize genius and give him a chance.

The Germans seem able to start a new peace move as soon as the allies stop one.

Philadelphia's Religious Trials.

An ecclesiastical trial is attracting some attention in Philadelphia, the Rev. George Chalmers Richmond, the pastor of St. John's Episcopal Church, who has refused to be deposed, and has made a hard fight for what he calls his "rights," being the prisoner at the bar, so to say. Several days ago, Dr. Richmond was asked on cross-examination as to the date of his birth, and in answer to the question inquired of the counsel seeking this information as to the date of his father's suicide. Previously to this episode, the pastor had denounced one of the persons pursuing him as a liar, and "a meeting adjourned." There is always "something doing" in the religious circles of Philadelphia, which recalls the story of a famous judge in South Carolina, who was asked: "Judge, do you mean to tell me that you believe that only members of the Scotch Church are saved?" "Such is my belief, sir," replied the judge, "and damned few of them, sir."

THE COMMENTATOR.

President's Engagement List For Day is Short.

It was a short engagement list which greeted President Wilson when he entered the Executive Offices this morning. But three visitors, except a delegation attending a convention in Washington, were scheduled to see the President today.

Assistant Secretary Phillips, of the State Department, and Senator Johnson of South Dakota, were on the list as the first callers and later Mr. Wilson was scheduled to receive fifty delegates to the convention of the Master Gravel and Slog Roofers' Association, being held here.

At 3:30 o'clock, Senator Reed will call at the Executive Offices. William Jennings Bryan was at the White House for a few minutes yesterday afternoon, to "pay his respects" to the President. He is stopping at the Lafayette Hotel.

## Here and There In the News

There was a testimonial dinner in Philadelphia last week in honor of Augustus L. Daix upon his re-election to the State Senate. "The gang" was all there, and they had a great time. United States Senator Boies Penrose appears to have been the piece de resistance of the occasion, and was lauded to the skies by his faithful friend, State Senator McNichol, who declared that he did not aspire to leadership, but wished "only to continue as a loyal follower of the great leader, Senator Penrose. He is a man," said Mr. McNichol warming up to his work, "who has been assailed on every hand, but he has come out unscathed, with a character as pure as the driven snow."

"Oh! the snow, the snow, the beautiful snow,"

And so on. McNichol is an artist whatever may be said of him as a contractor.

Comparing Penalties.

The other day, the keeper of a cafe in Paris was fined \$40,000 for selling absinthe in violation of the law, and his license to do business was taken away from him. If the Sheppard prohibition bill should be passed by Congress the penalties will not be severe, but they will be sufficiently severe to make the business of making and selling alcoholic liquors in the District an unprofitable business, the fines running from \$300 to \$1,000, and the term of imprisonment from thirty days to twelve months.

Where Is Hell?

De Felix Adler, head of the Society for Ethical Culture, has been brought to task by two Baptist ministers for saying that there is no such place as hell, and that it was unfortunate that "Billy" Sunday is going to New York to worry people about it. As Litt Bradley, the poor and uneducated colored person, said, "Hell must be a most 'wonderful' kind of a place," and as the gifted Christopher Marlowe put it about 400 years ago "all places shall be hell that are not heaven," something must be forgiven to Dr. Adler, who has lived in New York for many years. One of the Secretaries of the Treasury in Washington described New York in verse not many years ago, and occasional visitors from the provinces have brought back distressing accounts of what they saw and heard while they were there and fancying that they were really moving in the best circles.

Hades and Texas.

Hell being to some extent largely a matter of imagination, and Dr. Adler being a resident of New York, some wicked and uninformed persons may be inclined to say that he cannot imagine that there could be any other place to compare with it in wickedness as those of us who have been there and seen the other side know that the hell of New York is fairly balanced by the heaven of New York. Dr. Adler does not appear to have ever heard of the man who has been down in Col. Ed House's State, who said after seeing things at their best or worst, that if he "owned both hell and Texas he would rent out Texas as hell." From what he would seem that there are worse places than hell. But the Baptist brethren in New York need not worry about Dr. Adler—the Rev. "Billy" Sunday will look after him.

Solving the Cook Problem.

"The Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Women's Division for National Preparedness of the Red Cross"—good gracious, what a name! "Has decided to teach its members how to prepare and cook wholesome food for soldiers and wounded in the emergency of war," and Mrs. Harry Cox, the chairman, says that it "has been decided that all should be educated in the preparation of food." That's all right; don't say a word about it. It is a great moment, and ought to be encouraged. On the dead quiet, if the women of the chapter can be trained to prepare food for possible sick and wounded soldiers, would it not be practicable for them to cook for men who are in fairly sound condition in normal times? There are frequent emergencies in the best regulated families, and in the Philadelphia movement there may be found the true solution of the question of cooks.

Of course, it would be well, at least it would be safe, for the Philadelphia cooks to try it on persons like Brumbaugh or Penrose before trying it on the members of the immediate families, unless, perchance, they may be those of their several domestic establishments who "never would be missed."

A Lesson To Him.

By the time Mr. Lawson gets through with his present adventure in high finance he will probably feel like the colored person down in old Mississippi who was about to be executed, and being asked if he had anything to say, replied with some degree of emotion: "Well, Boss, dis suahly be a lesson tuh me."

Philadelphia's Religious Trials.

An ecclesiastical trial is attracting some attention in Philadelphia, the Rev. George Chalmers Richmond, the pastor of St. John's Episcopal Church, who has refused to be deposed, and has made a hard fight for what he calls his "rights," being the prisoner at the bar, so to say. Several days ago, Dr. Richmond was asked on cross-examination as to the date of his birth, and in answer to the question inquired of the counsel seeking this information as to the date of his father's suicide. Previously to this episode, the pastor had denounced one of the persons pursuing him as a liar, and "a meeting adjourned." There is always "something doing" in the religious circles of Philadelphia, which recalls the story of a famous judge in South Carolina, who was asked: "Judge, do you mean to tell me that you believe that only members of the Scotch Church are saved?" "Such is my belief, sir," replied the judge, "and damned few of them, sir."

THE COMMENTATOR.

## MME. SAMAROFF IS WARMLY RECEIVED

Soloist With the Philadelphia Orchestra Charms Audience With Her Playing.

Returning to the originally announced program, the Philadelphia Orchestra was heard by a capacity audience at the National Theater yesterday afternoon in the third of its series of concerts, when Leopold Stokowski presented with all his vivid imagination, his sense of romance, and his stupendous emotional climaxes, the symphonic suite "Scherzando" of Rimsky-Korsakow as the major orchestral work.

To further emphasize this concert, the gifted pianist, Mme. Olga Samaroff, who is the wife of Leopold Stokowski, was the soloist. Not for some years has Olga Samaroff been heard here. She played the Brahms concerto in D minor, in which each succeeding movement was greeted with increased enthusiasm and the added tribute of American Beauty roses.

Has Vitality and Breadth.

This Brahms concerto has a varied array of distinct passages for the piano which revealed above all else the essentially musical quality of Mme. Samaroff's playing. She plays these individual melodies with a tone that blends into the orchestra; she is never obtrusive, maintaining at all times the ensemble. Yet vitality she has and breadth, and a spirit of romance akin to that of Stokowski himself.

It was with exquisite tone and repose that she gave the adagio. True Brahmsian beauty of tone and chords are contained in this second movement. The orchestra announced the rich choral chords, and the piano took them up with a rare value given the inside voices. Here a piano recaptulation resolved itself into a fine climax, the force and spirit of which was felt again in the rondo with its vital music of pure type given with pianistic charm, crisp accent, and sweep, and truly exquisite tone painting in the cadenzas. The orchestra portrayed the moods with intensity, with feeling that went from dark hues to a spirit of the east in theme and to dramatic heights.

Episodes of Pure Loveliness.

The program music of the Arabian Nights tale, "Scherzando," was told in music as a tone drama of alluring beauty, high passions, mad dances, and sinuous episodes. With his gift for tempestuous moods in tone, Stokowski also created episodes of pure loveliness for whole or solo violin and solo cello—all rarely given. His transitions from a pastoral, in which the winds were truly beautiful, to dance episodes, distinctive and alive, were telling dramatic contrasts. Romance was here in beauty of tone, and again a tempest, a furious, such as Stokowski alone creates.

The Weber overture to "Der Freischutz" completed the program. It was given with more of dynamic force than the suave but usually effective its dominant theme.

J. MacB.

## LETTERS FROM READERS

Comment on Current Topics in Communications to the Editor.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:  
I learn from the Congressional Record of January 10 that the Senate has decided criticism of the Pr-4-d-nt of the Un-d-nt St-ts to be a crime. This is a matter of great importance to us all, and I wish you would explain it further.

The Pr-4-d-nt is a public servant. If it is a high crime and misdemeanor to criticize him, it must be a crime to criticize other public servants.

Should I be locked up if I should criticize the C-r-n-r back in my home county? Of course no one would now dare to criticize a S-n-r, but how about others? I think we should all be more carefully on our guard. Less majesty is no joke in European countries, from which the Senate has imported it, and I will bet it will be no joke here.

For instance, I hear many rude, unsympathetic persons saying that Mr. L-n-a-g must be one of the greatest men that ever lived because he has made Mr. Br-an look like a statesman and anybody would have said that was absolutely impossible. It is evident, there must be no more comment of this kind.

It also appears from the Senate proceedings that to criticize the Emp-r of Aus-a is a crime and at least as bad as the other. I am anxious to know just where we stand now about these things. Do you think I could be allowed to criticize Kathie Scharr?

Yours very truly,

O. R. C. BUTLER.

P. S.—I have adopted the above style of spelling because looking back at the records I find that a century and a half ago, when England was dominated by the archaic ideas that now rule the cave dwelling gentlemen on Capitol Hill, writers were able in this way to escape the clutches of the censor.

I venture to commend the same kind of orthography to Senator Lodge. He seems to be in imminent danger and it is too good a man to ornament the fall to which he is plainly heading.—O. C. B. Washington, January 16.

Times Reader Protests Against Predicted Increase in Prices of Fish.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

In the Times appears an article predicting unusual advances in fish prices as a result of an advance in freight rates to this market from 37 to 60 cents per barrel.

The following is quoted from this article: "According to Washington fish dealers interviewed today on the subject, when the rates go into effect, the price of certain fish will go shooting skyward, and the high cost of living will ultimately be affected."

"One dealer went so far as to predict that certain fish would be quadrupled in value, should a 60-cent barrel rate go into effect between Norfolk and Washington."

Estimating a barrel of fish at 150 pounds the increase of 25 cents would amount to 1 1/4 mills per pound, and on this basis our dealer would advance prices to the poor of Washington from 15 to 60 cents per pound. Apparently the dealers' estimate was somewhat exaggerated, but the underlying principle is shown, i. e., any subterfuge will be resorted to to boost the already outrageous prices.

Don't you think a little publicity might improve this type of dealer?

JAN. 10, 1917.

A TIMES READER.

## SECRET OF NEW ARM REVEALED IN COURT

Inventors Claim Twelve-Pound Rifle Capable of Firing 400 Shots a Minute.

The existence of a new army rifle, which, it is said, for combination of weight and magazine capacity, makes it perhaps the handiest weapon ever invented for war use, came to light yesterday. It is virtually a machine gun which can be carried with ease by any soldier. It weighs only twelve and a half pounds, and is reported to be capable of firing 400 shots a minute.

The new rifle is the invention of Paul Breinholt Weden and William Marshall. The secrecy was lifted in a fight in court. A final appeal was made by Weden and Marshall to enjoin them from disposing of their invention to a foreign government. No foreign power was named, but it is believed that the allies have been negotiating.

The inventors denied that they had sold the rifle to any power, but said that arrangements had been closed with the Westinghouse company for manufacturing on a royalty basis for them.

Officers Show Interest.